

General Meeting
Friday May 17, 2013
7:30pm

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette
License Testing at 6:00pm

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Affiliated Club

May 17 Meeting Program

This month's guest speakers are Ron Meadows, K6RPT, President & Payload Engineer and Don Ferguson, AI6RE, team member of the California Near Space Project. (CNSP).

CNSP currently holds the world record for the distance traveled by an amateur balloon. The group has successfully launched two trans-Atlantic balloons. The most recent was launched on December 2nd, 2012 from San Jose, California. The balloon had an APRS callsign of K6RPT-12 and flew for 55 hours 54 minutes landing in Morocco in Africa!

The high altitude balloon launches are used to study and enhance their understanding of a variety of topics such as: photography, meteorology, radio and payload design, as well as launching and tracking technology.

The photos are from flight CNSP-02 on March 20, 2010.

73, John Weldon, KJ6GLQ, Vice President



More information at:
www.cnsp-ing.com

AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THESE UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

May 18 - Bicycle race to summit of Mt. Diablo
Radio Coordinator: John Stuart, KM6QX

Alcatraz Challenge Swim

May 27 (Memorial Day Monday) - S.F. Bay & Waterfront. Radio Coordinator: Barry Bettman, K6ST.
Contact Barry directly for this event at k6st@arrl.net.

4th of July Parade

July 4 - Downtown Pleasant Hill
Radio Coordinator: Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
Public Services Coordinator
Pharris125@comcast.net
925-228-4503

Mt Diablo Amateur Radio Club Balance Sheet As of April 30, 2013

	<u>Apr 30, 13</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MDARC - 9 month CD	11,055.39
MDARC - Ft CD	10,933.10
Mt Diablo ARC	27,475.24
PACIFICON	9,980.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>59,443.73</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>59,443.73</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>59,443.73</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	59,349.08
Unrestricted Net Assets	-341.72
Net Income	436.37
Total Equity	<u>59,443.73</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>59,443.73</u>

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Vice President - John Weldon, KJ6GLQ
Secretary - Steve Rogge, K6XZ
Treasurer - Bill Swindell K1LED

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Trevor Hall, WA6JAU wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

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Dale McIntire, AD6HD Ron Luttringer, K6XC
Janice Fujii, KG6VTD Ray Gaschk, W6FYA

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Web Page: Chris Matthew, N7ICE

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Youth Education - Steve Rogge, K6XZ
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Public Service - Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE and Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan, AF6HQ
Refreshments: Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
Holiday Dinner: Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Annual Picnic - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE
The Carrier Newsletter
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Copy Editor - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Amateur Television Help and Information:
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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:



PRESIDENT'S QTC

Back to another month of great amateur radio operating! This is always an exciting time of year for radio because so much is happening. If you like participating in public service events or drills, they seem to occur endlessly at this time of year. Also, right around the corner is Field Day! If you are new to the Club or to ham radio, then you might not know what Field Day is?! Field Day is a very large operating event that happens on the fourth full weekend of each June. The event covers all of North America (that's Canada and the US, for those of you playing at home). During a 24 hour period, you try to make as many contacts with as many different ARRL Sections, on as many bands and modes as you possibly can. MDARC always has a great Field Day. Once again this year, we are going to have our main operation at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Lauren Styles, WA6CIE is our Field

Day Chair, and is coordinating all activities during the operations at Heather Farm. We may also have an operation located on the top of Mount Diablo., an excellent operating location. Last year, the team that operated up there as W6F had a long delayed echo! A long delayed echo is when you hear yourself through your own transceiver several seconds after you transmit. Your signal takes a long path stroll all around the world, bouncing all the way. The guys indicated that it was really cool and spooky to hear themselves calling CQ. I asked the question, that if they answered their own call, does that count as a proper log entry?

We have some changes coming up. Our great MDARC Vice-President, John Welden KJ6GLQ is going to retire shortly and move to Louisiana. I wish you the best of luck and greatest of happiness on all the big changes in his life. However, we are soon to be down one great Vice-President! I would love to hear recommendations from the Club for a replacement, and I encourage members who feel the spirit move them, to consider joining us at our monthly Board meetings. We have a great time, and accomplish quite a lot in a short bit of time. Our Board meets on the first Monday of each month at the Black Bear Diner in Walnut Creek.

Additionally, John is our Forums Chair for PACIFICON This is a really critical role - but a fun role for that incredible event. I really need someone to step up and take charge of that position. It is essential for the high level event that we undertake each year.

This past weekend, a group of six intrepid hams trekked to the top of the North Peak of Mount Diablo. Three antennas for ATV were mounted on the top of a 100 foot tower, a cross arm structure was mounted at the 80 foot level and coax for four antennas was hoisted and installed for four antennas. The weather was hot, the flying earwigs were merciless, but the work was payment enough for what we accomplished.

The migration of ATV from South Peak to North Peak is well underway, and our prospects are quite exciting.



WB6ASU, K6SOE and AF6PU
on the ground at Mount Diablo's
North Peak on May 11, 2013.
(KJ6GLQ photo)

Hope to see (or hear) you all soon. Until next month... 73, Jim Siemons, AF6PU, President

Club Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2013

Presided over by **Jim Siemons, AF6PU**, President

The meeting took place at 7:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane in Lafayette, Ca.

The meeting opened with a pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Swindell, K1LED. The current total of all accounts stands at \$27540.05 M/S/A

Field Day - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE.

- The band captains are: 15m – Jim, 20m & 10m - Ben, 40m – Steve.
- The Salvation Army canteen will not be available for Field Day. Some standalone cooking equipment could be provided by the Salvation Army.
- The meeting for Friday June 21st will be at the Field Day site in Heather Farm Park. The dates are June 22nd thru 23th.

Tech Committee – Trevor Hall, WA6JAU.

- The 1st trip to north peak to mount the ATV antennas on 3/8/13 was rescheduled to 3/9/13. The antennas, hard-line and mounting hardware were delivered to the site. Installation was canceled due to high winds.
- There has been an interfering noise on the 2m repeater that has recently cleared – do not think it was the repeater or antenna.

Education & Training– John Primus, AF6RJ.

- The January – March Technician Licensing class had 43 enrolled and average attendance of 33. Testing was held on 3/14/13 with 27 people testing. Results were 21 new technicians and 3 General upgrades.
- A General Licensing class is scheduled for 4/8 – 5/30, exam session will be held Thursday 6/6.
- Chuck, KI6DCD & Larry, KI6LNB are holding a two session “Get on the Air” class on 3/28 & 4/4.
- A suggestion from the floor was made to start a newbie net. A second suggestion was to invite the newbies to use the Monday night Washington HS net.

License Testing – Larry, KI6LNB. 2 new Technicians earned their license tonight.

Membership – Tom, KA6SIP. There are 284 paid members. 76 members still need to pay dues for this year.

Public Service – John Stuart, KM6QX. Stage 7 of the AMGEN bicycle race scheduled for May 18 will have the finish line on Mt Diablo. A change for this year race is that all volunteers will need to attend a training session prior to the race. Anyone interested in helping during the race, check the web site for information.

Emergency Coordinator - Tom, WA6NYP. RACES has a scheduled visit to the Coast Guard at YBI on 03/14/13.

Guest Speaker – John Rabold, KS6M East Bay Section, Emergency Coordinator, held a talk on the current ARES organization in the East Bay Section.

Respectfully submitted by
John Welden, KJ6GLQ
Vice-President

Board Meeting Minutes April 1, 2013

Presided over by Jim Siemons, AF6PU, President

The meeting was held at the Black Bear restaurant and was called to order at 7:00 PM

Attendees - Jay Caldis, Jim Siemons, Tom Kramer, Trevor Hall, John Primus, Janice Fuji, Bill Swindell, John Welden, Ray Gaschk, Dale McIntire, Ron Luttringer

No minutes were available for the March Board meeting.

Vice President John Welden reported the upcoming meeting events and guest speakers:

April 19 – Auction

May 17 – California Near Space Project

June 21 – Get-together at the Heather Farms Field Day site.

July 19 – Maritime Radio Historical Society

July 20 – Tour of KPH Point Reyes

Treasurer Bill Swindell reported:

Total Assets - \$55,268.19 – (total now includes Pacificon accounts) Motion made to accept the treasurer report, second and approved.

Discussion on the following items:

Spending vs. income.

Possible duplication of insurance coverage. Need to verify.

Possible changing the amount of the annual dues.

Committee Reports

Auction – Bill Swindell, Discussion on the auction procedures and people to help running the auction.

Education – John Primus, The Spring Technician class was successful with 25 of 27 tested individuals earning their technician license and 3 earning their general license. The Spring General class is starting on 4/11/13 and currently has 39 people enrolled. A Fall Technician class is scheduled to start 8/22/2013 through 10/03/13. Looking at starting an Extra class sometime in 2014.

Tech Committee – Trevor Hall, meeting scheduled for 4/6/13

Emergency Communications – Tom Kramer, RACES trip to the Coast Guard Yerba Buena Island in March. In May RACES has a scheduled tour of the FAA Control Center in Fremont. Golden Guardian 2013, the statewide disaster exercise is scheduled for May 15th.

Field Day - Discussed trying to keep the cost of Field Day lower this year.

Scholarship – Ron Luttringer, The committee is planning to meeting with Chuck Luther

Pacificon – All major committee chairs have been filled and confirmed.

Open issues

Raffle has not recently been breaking even. Discussion on several ways to turn this trend around. Need to seek out a volunteer to become the Raffle chairperson.

Motion made to Adjourn, second and approved.

Respectfully submitted

John Welden, KJ6GLQ

Vice-President



" A 2013 Camping Adventure"

May 31st. June 1st, & 2nd

Introduction

The joint SFARC-MDARC campout will take place starting on Friday, June 1st and end on Sunday, June 3rd at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between the Club and a another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for the last 30 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

What The Campsite Provides

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one. However there are plans for at least one active HF station from WA6UHA (weather permitting). We will be using the club call, W6PW. Tentatively our stations will be active on 40 and 75 meters, during the day on the Noon Time Net frequency of 7268.5 KHz (Friday afternoon and all day Saturday) and at night (Friday & Saturday) on 3952 KHz (the Western Public Service Net frequency). It's time to pack up and enjoy the great outdoors and warm up for Field Day coming three weeks later. VHF and UHF paths for both Bay Area and Sacramento television and FM stations are quite good even with simple antennas. Obviously, working 2 meters and 440 into Sacramento and the Bay Area repeaters is not difficult especially during the early morning hours when path conditions are ideal.

The Sugar Pine Lake is just a 1/2 mile from the campsite. A hiking trail leads to the water and connects to another trail that follows the perimeter of the lake. The main swimming area is located on the opposite side of the lake and is accessible by hiking or by a 10 minute drive.

A Chronological Look At The Planned Activities

Friday, May 31

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), K6MDD A & C D-star, and 146.49 simplex will be monitored. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty. ***That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.***

Saturday, June 1

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours. *(continued on following page)*

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...**AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS...CORK ONLY.**

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share, and don't forget there will be great music for everyone's taste provided by Dave, WA6UHA.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

Sunday, June 2

At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Two kinds will be provided, plain and Oregon Blueberry. After many years of research we were able to come up with a process that prevents the pancake batter from seeping through the grill and on to the charcoal. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like. In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site. In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

Cost To You

Just \$40 per family!! The more the participants...you might not have to dig so deep into your wallet...

How To Make Reservations

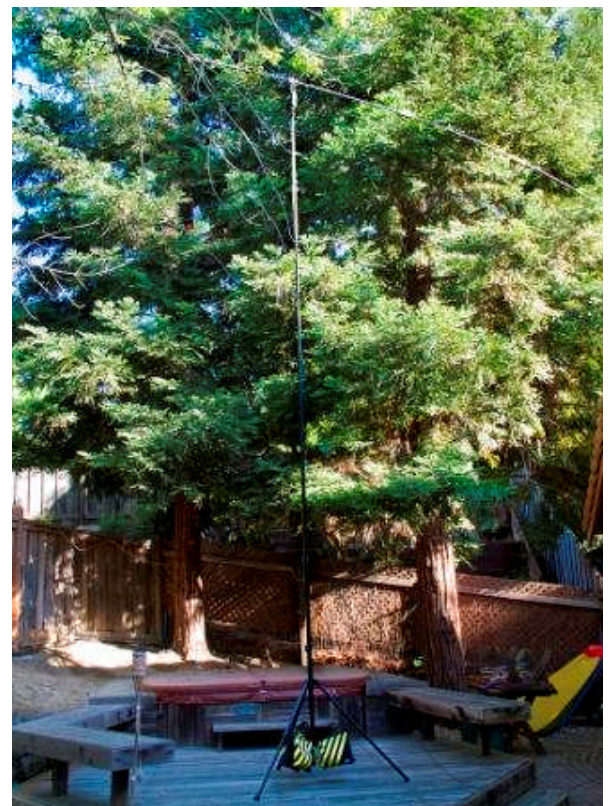
E-mail Dave, WA6UHA at youha@pacbell.net with your name, home QTH, type of vehicle, and number in your party.

A Tale of Two Different Ham Radio Experiences by Pete Harris, KE6ZIW

On April 20, 2013, I came home from a wonderful public service event on Mt. Diablo – the Diablo Trail Challenge – consisting of 5K, 10K, ½ marathon and 50k (super marathon) cross country runs. I was part of a ham radio team that helped to support the event. The purpose of the event was to raise money for the great Save Mount Diablo organization that has been successfully buying privately held lands around the base of Mt. Diablo to help expand and preserve that beautiful open space and trails for ourselves, our children, grandchildren and the generations to come. The radio team, coordinated skillfully by John Stuart, KM6QX, helped provide safety and emergency services to the hundreds of runners participating in the event. As part of the radio team I used my all-band portable Yaesu FT-897 radio for the event, sitting at a card table overlooking a scenic trail, with hundreds of runners passing by. I used an 18 inch high mag-mount antenna, magnetically attached to one of my wife's cookie sheets for ground, placed on the dirt behind me. The mag-mount/cookie sheet arrangement worked great and provided a strong 2 meter signal to the club repeater, which was only a few miles away on top of Mt. Diablo, but obscured by the ravine we were located in and the many hills between us and the repeater.

When my assignment was over I went home, reconnected the same FT-897 all-band radio to a portable HF antenna in my backyard that was configured as a 20 meter dipole, 16 feet in the air and 26 feet wide. I turned on the radio and was quickly able to make contact with a ham in Lincoln Nebraska. The signal that allowed me to do this went high up into the atmosphere, bounced off the ionosphere and came down 1,368 miles away. The ham in Nebraska was as clear sounding as the radio team on Mt. Diablo that I had been speaking with about an hour earlier. We spoke about our equipment and the magic of radio communications.

Such are the wonders of ham radio - from small waves reflected off a cookie sheet to communicate with a team in relatively close proximity to each other, to grand, long waves that go high up into the sky, bounce off electrically charged layers of air, to make contact with others who are thousands of miles away. Each for its own purpose and each with its own joys.



North Peak ATV Progress Report by John Weldon, KJ6GLQ

At 10:00am, Saturday May 11, 2013, the Amateur Television (ATV) installation team gathered in Clayton Community Park for the trek up to the North Peak site on Mount Diablo. For this trip the team was:

Certified tower climber, Anthony Andrianos, KC6KIM, Fred Coe, WB6ASU, Jim Tittle K6SOE, Jerry Rosicky, KB6T, President Jim Siemons, AF6PU and Vice President John Weldon, KJ6GLQ

As predicted the weather and wind was almost perfect for a full day of antenna installation work. First tasks were to remove an old barbeque antenna (900MHz?) from the tower and to rig a cable support pipe from the tower to cable support that enters the shelter. Next, the three receive antennas were “flown” to the top of tower and were installed by Anthony. Shortly afterwards two LMR-600 coax cables and one 7/8” coaxial hard line were hoisted to the top and connected to the antennas and weatherproofed. Ground straps were then connected. The last two items to go up the tower was the support pipes for the transmit antenna and the 7/8” coaxial hard line.

It was a long hot day with a lot of work accomplished. Several challenges presented themselves (How do you fit 6 people into a 5 passenger 4 x 4 truck?) And all were promptly resolved.

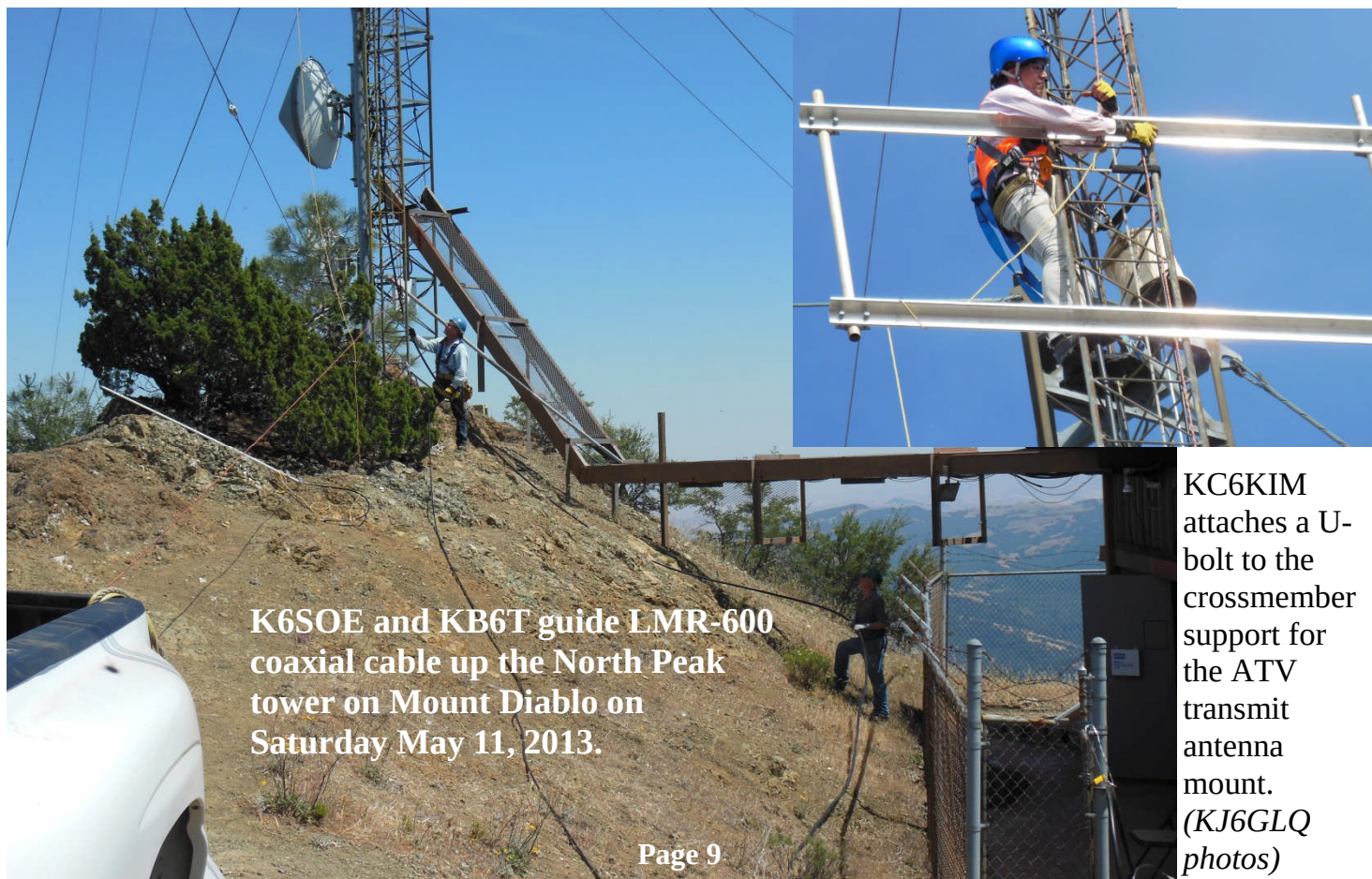
The next trip is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 24th.

Complete set of the 2nd installation trip to North Peak are located here:

<http://www.flickr.com/x/t/0098009/photos/15425637@N03/sets/72157633459787213/>

The 1st installation trip to North Peak can be view here:

<http://www.flickr.com/x/t/0092009/photos/15425637@N03/sets/72157633478302574/>



K6SOE and KB6T guide LMR-600 coaxial cable up the North Peak tower on Mount Diablo on Saturday May 11, 2013.

KC6KIM attaches a U-bolt to the crossmember support for the ATV transmit antenna mount. (KJ6GLQ photos)

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- 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM-FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible

**IC-7600** All Mode Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15kHz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope

**IC-V8000** 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital
Dual Bander
D-STAR

ID-880H

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode)
- Wideband receiver

**YAESU**
The radio**FTDX-3000** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF

**FT-7900R** 2M/440 Mobile

- 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/al-pha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan

**FT-450D** 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in
- 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

**FT-857D** Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included
- 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

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Rapid Deliveries From
The Store Nearest to You!

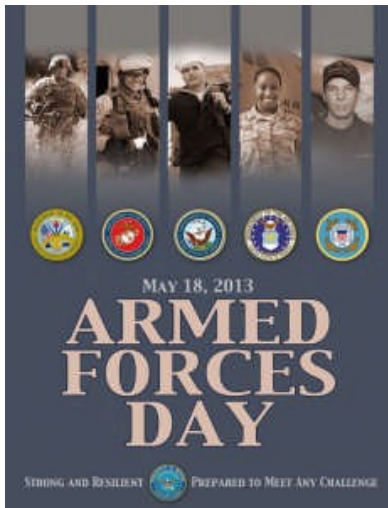




The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS



W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<https://stn3057.ip.irlp.net/status.html>

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday

<http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/>

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

May and June 2013 Club Calendar

Friday May 17, 2013	7:30pm	MDARC General Meeting - <i>Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette</i>
Saturday June 1, 2013	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee <i>Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg</i>
Monday June 3, 2013	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting <i>Black Bear Restaurant, 700 Bancroft Avenue, Walnut Creek</i>
Friday June 21, 2013	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting <i>Field Day Site Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek</i>